

COUNTYWIDE PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS STORM WATER RUNOFF

The Franklin County Commissioners along with trustees from all 17 townships in Franklin County will gather at the Franklin County Courthouse auditorium on Wednesday, March 5, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. to sign a document which will serve as a formal "Notice of Intent to Acquire a Phase II Storm Water Management Permit" from the Ohio EPA.

Background

Recently, the pollution problems associated with storm water runoff have received more attention as a result of new urban storm water regulations, which are being enforced by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio EPA. These regulations are associated with a program known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES. This program requires local governments to apply for permits and to develop plans to reduce storm water pollution. The thrust of this effort is to improve the quality of storm water entering our waterways and to reduce the negative impacts to the environment.

Phase One of this program required large municipalities such as Columbus to develop a storm water program. The EPA is now into Phase Two implementation, which requires smaller local governments in urbanized areas to apply for storm water permits and propose a five-year plan to develop a storm water management program. Franklin County Government will be providing resources and financial assistance to its 17 township partners in this effort.

Support Provided by Franklin County

Commenting on this upcoming event, Dewey R. Stokes, President of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners said, "Franklin County is taking a proactive and measured approach in addressing its storm water concerns as it complies with these new state and federal mandates. Today's signing of our "Notice of Intent" and submission of our five-year implementation plan marks a significant step forward in the area of storm water management for our township residents."

"County support for this effort," Stokes continued, "will be provided through the Franklin County Board of Health, the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer's Office, and the Office of the Franklin County Engineer. Overall coordination for this cooperative effort is being provided through the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District."

The Five-Year Plan

The five-year implementation plan that will be submitted to the Ohio EPA next Tuesday will address six control measures designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible. These control measures include the following:

- **Public Outreach and Education**—Informing our citizens of the impact polluted storm water runoff can have on water quality.
- **Public Participation and Involvement**—Encouraging community participation in program development and implementation.
- **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**—Developing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to our storm sewer system.

- **Construction Site Runoff Control**—Developing and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction sites that disturb one or more acres of land.
- **Post-Construction Runoff Control**—Developing and enforcing a program that addresses discharges of post-construction storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas.
- **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**—Developing a program aimed at preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

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